

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Endo (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0085057).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as well as Claim 5, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0085057) in view of Turner et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,480,182).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Accordingly, independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 6 and 7, dependent therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 and therefore respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 3-9, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

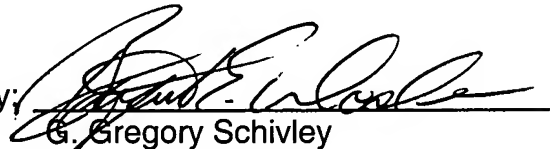
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 13, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Gregory Schivley", written over a horizontal line.

G. Gregory Schivley

Reg. No. 27,382

Bryant E. Wade

Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGG/BEW/MHS